

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 1 and added new claims 22 and 23.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5, 6, and 8-12 as being obvious over Finestone, 5,244,702. Finestone teaches a paper plastic laminate sheet capable of being converted by conventional equipment into envelopes, grocery bags, and other dilatable container products that initially are in a flat state and are normally made of paper and wherein the products produced are waterproof and the paper facing has an affinity for standard printing inks (Abstract; Col. 2 lines 10-26).

The laminate consists of a paper facing sheet laminated via an adhesive layer to a reinforcing film of oriented polymer such as polypropylene wherein the paper may be of any gauge, weight and quality as appropriate to the end use for which the sheeting is intended such as unbleached Kraft paper, white or colored paper or coated paper. (Abstract; Col. 2 lines 66- Col. 3, line 9).

The adhesive layer is preferably a water-based polyacrylate copolymer adhesive or any other water-based adhesive having similar bonding properties and having an affinity both for the paper sheet and the plastic film wherein hot melt adhesives would diminish the reinforcing characteristics of the film (Col. 3, lines 28-38).

In the invention, the plastic film is cold laminated to the paper sheet under pressure and at room temperature by means of a water-based polyacrylate copolymer adhesive, or by any other water-based adhesive having similar bonding properties and having an affinity both for the paper sheet and the plastic film.

Finestone does not teach that the paper has a basis weight of 20-60 lb/3000 sq. ft. as instantly claimed, however, Finestone does teach that the basis weight may be selected to be appropriate for a particular end use and that the laminate is suitable for products typically produced from flat paper materials, hence, given that ream wrap material is a typical product produced from flat paper materials, it would have been obvious to determine the optimum basis weight based on the particular end use wherein basis weights within the instantly claimed range are known for producing ream wrap materials. Further, Finestone does not specifically teach adhesives as instantly claimed or metallization of the plastic film or the paper sheet, however, one would have been motivated to provide a conventional metallized layer to improve barrier properties of the packaging laminate as is well known in the art and to further select from conventional adhesives utilized to bond paper and polymer layers such as those instantly claimed in producing the laminate taught by Finestone. In terms of claim 10, the Examiner notes that though Finestone teaches away from utilizing heat when producing the laminate, the limitation "hot melt adhesive" is a process limitation wherein the adhesive layer in the final film is not actually hot. Therefore, considering the polyacrylate copolymer taught by Finestone as suitable in water-based form may also be characterized as a "hot melt adhesive" in other applications, the Examiner takes the position that the invention taught by Finestone reads on the final product of claim 10.

Amended claim 1 requires that the composite wrap material for wrapping reams of paper consist of a first inner layer of paper having a basis weight of

about 20-60 lbs/3,000 sq. ft; and a second outer layer of a solid polymer film material. The polymer film is solid during lamination to the paper. An adhesive layer is between the first and second layers. Finestone teaches that the exterior surface is the paper layer and the interior surface is the film layer. The product whose exterior surface is formed by the paper facing sheet, is readily printable. (Abstract, Col. 2 lines 40-42). Therefore claim 1 is not obvious over Finestone. Further, because claims 5,6, 8-12 depend on claim 1, they are also not obvious over Finestone. Further, claim 10 is not obvious because Finestone teaches that "the use of hot melt adhesives to laminate a reinforcing film to the undersurface of the paper sheet is interdicted; for to do so would seriously diminish the reinforcing characteristics of the film. (Col. 3 lines 28-38) Therefore, Finestone teaches that hot melt adhesives would diminish the characteristics of the film which Finestone teaches are the reasons for using the film.

New claim 22 teaches that the first paper layer touches against the ream of paper which is wrapped by the composite wrap material. Finestone teaches that the film is the inside layer. Therefore claim 22 is not obvious over Finestone.

New claim 23 teaches that the second film layer is on the outside of the composite wrap material which is wrapped around the ream of paper. Finestone teaches that the paper layer is on the outside of the product. Therefore, claim 23 is not obvious over Finestone.

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 8-12 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5, 20-23 and 33-36 of copending Application No. 10/385,117.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine various dependent claim limitations.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Applicant has filed a terminal disclaimer.

Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance.

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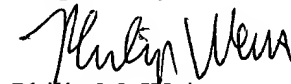
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Signature: Debbie Broderick

Name: Debbie Broderick

Respectfully submitted,



Philip M. Weiss

Reg. No. 34,751

Attorney for Applicant

Weiss & Weiss

310 Old Country Rd., Ste. 201

Garden City, NY 11530

(516) 739-1500